

Arizona Department of Health Services

Division of Behavioral Health Services

PROVIDER MANUAL

Section 3.12 **Advance Directives**

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3.12.1 Introduction

An advance directive is a written set of instructions developed by an adult person in the event the person becomes incapable of making decisions regarding his or her behavioral health treatment. An advance directive instructs others regarding the person's wishes if he/she becomes incapacitated and can include the appointment of a friend or relative to make behavioral health care decisions for the person. Usually a person prepares an advance directive when capable and the directive is followed when the person is incapable of making treatment decisions. This section outlines the requirements of behavioral health care providers in regards to advance directives.

3.12.2 References

The following citations can serve as additional resources for this content area:

- [ADHS/T/RBHA Contract](#)
- [AHCCCS/ADHS Contract](#)
- [42 CFR 438.6](#)
- [42 CFR 489.100](#)
- [A.R.S. § 36-3221](#)
- [A.R.S. § 36-3281](#)
- [A.R.S. § 36-3283](#)
- [Service Prioritization for Non-Title XIX/ XXI Funding Section](#)
- [Member Handbooks Section](#)

3.12.3 Scope

All adult persons enrolled in the behavioral health system.

3.12.4 Did you know?

Advance directives not only identify services a person would desire if they become unable to make a decision, they also:

- Promote individual treatment planning;

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- Provide opportunities to create a team approach to treatment; and
- Foster recovery approaches.
- If changes occur in State law regarding advance directives, adult persons receiving behavioral health services must be notified regarding the changes as soon as possible, but no later than 90 days after the effective date of the change.

3.12.5 Objective

To ensure behavioral health care providers comply with Federal and State laws regarding advance directives for adult persons.

3.12.6 Definitions

[Advance Directive](#)

[Mental Health Care Power of Attorney](#)

[Health Care Power of Attorney](#)

3.12.7 Procedures

3.12.7-A: What does a mental health care power of attorney do?

A mental health care power of attorney gives an adult person the right to designate another adult person to make behavioral health care treatment decisions on their behalf. The designee may make decisions on behalf of the adult person if she or he is found incapable of making these types of decisions. The designee, however, must not be a provider directly involved with the behavioral health treatment of the adult person at the time the mental health care power of attorney is executed.

3.12.7-B: What are some of the powers and duties of the designee(s)?

The designee:

- May act in this capacity until their authority is revoked by the adult person or by court order;
- Has the same right as the adult person to receive information and to review the adult person's medical records regarding proposed behavioral health treatment and to receive, review and consent to the disclosure of medical records relating to the adult person's treatment;
- Must act consistently with the wishes of the adult person as expressed in the mental health care power of attorney. If, however, the adult person's wishes are not expressed in a mental health care power of attorney and are not otherwise known by the designee, the designee must act in good faith and consent to treatment that she or he believes to be in the adult person's best interest; and
- May consent to admitting the adult person to a level one behavioral health facility licensed by the Department of Health Services if this authority is expressly stated in the mental health care power of attorney or health care power of attorney.

See A.R.S. §36-3283 for a complete list of the powers and duties of an agent designated under a mental health care power of attorney.

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3.12.7-C: What must be provided to an adult person at the time of enrollment?

At the time of enrollment all adult persons must receive information regarding:

- The person's rights regarding advance directives under Arizona State law,
- A description of the applicable State law (summarized in 3.18.7-A and 3.18.7-B above), and Information regarding the implementation of these rights

Behavioral health providers must also periodically make persons aware of the option to enter into an advance directive.

3.12.7-D: How do I help an adult person develop an advance directive?

Behavioral health providers must assist adult persons who are interested in developing and executing an advance directive. The T/RBHA can offer the following resources: **[T/RBHA insert specific language here]**

3.12.7-E: What else must health care providers do regarding advance directives?

Behavioral health care providers must:

- Document in the adult person's clinical record whether or not the adult person was provided the information and whether an advance directive was executed;
- Not discriminate against an adult person because of his or her decision to execute or not to execute an advance directive; and
- Provide a copy of a person's executed advanced directive, or documentation of refusal, to the acute care primary care provider (PCP) for inclusion in the person's medical record.